

**STILLWATER COUNTY
COMMISSIONER MINUTES**

Notice: These minutes reflect the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners. The official minutes are on file with the Clerk and Recorder MCA 7-4-2611(2)(b).

**REGULAR MEETING
February 1, 2022**

PRESENT Commissioners Tyrel Hamilton, Chair, Mark Crago, Steve Riveland, members, Madisyn Hudecek, Admin Assistant.

Others Present: Stephanie Ray, Economic Development; Randy Smith, SCSO; Jerry Friend, Treasurer; Chip Kem, SCSO; Marlo Pronovost, Stillwater County News.

PLEDGE Commissioner Hamilton opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES December 21, 2021, January 4 & 11, 2022. Commissioner Crago **MOVED** to approve the minutes from December 21, 2021, January 4 & 11, 2022. Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

CLAIMS 108803 through 108874 in the amount of \$297,955.65. Commissioner Riveland **MOVED** to approve the claims 108803 through 108874 in the amount of \$297,955.65. Commissioner Crago **SECONDED**. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Commissioner Hamilton announced that there are board openings for the Library Board, DUI Task Force, Airport Board, Weed Board and the Economic Development Board. Board applications are available on the county website and the Clerk & Records office. Commissioner Crago noted that the Board of Adjustments and the Zoning Commission also need to be filled.

FILE ITEMS **Library Board**
A) Angie Osborne Library Board resignation letter.

Treasurer
A) Cash on hand report for the month of December 2022 in the amount of \$60,181,932.20.

Commissioner Crago **MOVED** to file the file items. Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR BUSINESS **Planning**
A) Kyle Stadel reappointment to the City/County Planning Board. Commissioner Riveland **MOVED** to approve the Kyle Stadel reappointment to the City/County Planning Board. Commissioner Crago **SECONDED**. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

B) Shad Kientiz reappointment to the City/County Planning Board. Commissioner Crago **MOVED** to reappoint Shad Kientiz to the City/County Planning Board. Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

C) Josh Daniels reappointment to the City/County Planning Board. Commissioner Riveland **MOVED** to approve the Josh Daniels reappointment to the City/County Planning Board. Commissioner Crago **SECONDED**. Discussion – Commissioner Crago stated that this is a city appointment and the county can agree to the reappointment but the city has to approve this as well. Motion passed unanimously.

D) Rob Harper appointment to the County Planning Board. Commissioner Crago **MOVED** to appoint Rob Harper to the County Planning Board. Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

E) Curt Jacobs reappointment to the County Planning Board. Commissioner Riveland **MOVED** to approve the reappointment of Curt Jacobs to the County Planning Board. Commissioner Crago **SECONDED**. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

F) Gerald Edwards reappointment to the County Planning Board. Commissioner Crago **MOVED** to reappoint Gerald Edwards to the County Planning Board. Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Commission

A) Resolution 2022-04 allocating electrical generation impact fees. Commissioner Riveland **MOVED** to approve Resolution 2022-04 allocating electrical generation impact fees. Commissioner Crago **SECONDED**. Discussion – Commissioner Hamilton explained that this allocates electrical generation impact fees that were received when Northwestern Energy constructed the transfer station on Five Mile Road. The amount is \$8,321.00. This was paid in one lump sum as opposed to a paying throughout the three-year span. This will allocate the funds to pay for legal services for the proposed wind company coming to the county. Commissioner Hamilton further explained that Northwestern Energy will be storing their battery packs from electrical generation to transfer it to the main line. This is located off of Five Mile Road. Commissioner Crago added that Caithness Energy which is Beaver Creek Wind is the entity that paid the impact fee. Northwestern Energy installed it. Commissioner Hamilton went on to say that the money will be spent on legal fees for current contract negotiations with Caithness Energy. Motion passed unanimously.

B) Absarokee Water & Sewer ARPA funds request in the amount of \$25,000.00. Commissioner Crago **MOVED** to approve the \$25,000.00 request by Absarokee Water & Sewer. Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**. Discussion – Commissioner Crago explained that the water & sewer district is really the water district in Absarokee. They have the Hawkins Park well, which is the only well on the town side of the river. It was taken offline in the early to mid-90's. Technology has advanced to the point where a treatment filtration system can be added to bring the well back online. This money will be combined with another grant the district received to pay for preliminary engineering reports to come up with the best options for this well to service the community. Commissioner Hamilton added that the district previously applied for a competitive grant through the state which was not approved. The county had committed \$175,000.00 had the grant been successful. The county can commit a smaller amount through the ARPA fund due to the existing failure of infrastructure on water and wastewater. The \$25,000.00 was originally part of the larger grant match. The district was not successful with the larger grant request but has asked to utilize a smaller amount from the ARPA funds. Motion passed unanimously.

Absarokee Sewer

A) Outlay report & request for reimbursement in the amount of 48,038.34. Commissioner Riveland **MOVED** to approve the Absarokee Sewer outlay report & request for reimbursement in the amount of 48,038.34. Commissioner Crago **SECONDED**. Discussion – Commissioner Crago explained that the paperwork is showing where the money has been distributed on the Absarokee Sewer project at this point. The grant funding is starting to come in and this paperwork is necessary to document the grant funds. Motion passed unanimously.

B) RSID wastewater system improvements project draw request #21 in the amount of \$76,216.50. Commissioner Crago **MOVED** to approve draw request #21. Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**. Discussion – Commissioner Crago explained that this is for project costs for the Absarokee Sewer project. The bills will begin to increase over the next 45 days as the project begins to be engaged again. Motion passed unanimously.

Weed Board

A) Norman Moss reappointment to the Weed Board. Commissioner Riveland **MOVED** to approve Norman Moss reappointment to the Weed Board. Commissioner Crago **SECONDED**. Discussion – Commissioner Crago thanked all the board reappointments and their willingness to serve and to continue to serve, on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Hamilton encouraged anyone that has an interest to sign up for some of the open board positions. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON COUNTY BUSINESS – Sheriff Kem stated that he had a conversation last Friday with Commissioner Hamilton regarding a letter that was sent to Senator Testers office regarding ARPA funds. Senator Testers office is looking into ways that they may be able to assist the county in that regard.

Jerry Friend stated that it is being looked into to create a bill that will make it mandatory for all boards to have training on the rights and responsibilities for the individual boards. This can be good and bad. People can learn the power and limitations of the boards they are on; however, people may not want to attend the training and therefore resign from the board. Commissioner Crago added that the Board of County Commissioners bought the Montana Local Government Training Books so every board member had one. There was a board training that was scheduled that was cancelled. The Board of County Commissioners sees this as a need and has addressed it. Commissioner Hamilton agreed and stated that the board training will be rescheduled. Stephanie Ray stated that the training was cancelled due to lack of participation. The county will collaborate with city and have city and county boards combine to hopefully have better participation but it is not mandatory.

With no further comments heard the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

APPROVED BY: /s/ Tyrel Hamilton, Commissioner Chairman

ATTEST: Heidi L. Stadel, Clerk and Recorder